



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314

The Beginnings of Medical Intelligence

A comprehensive United States medical intelligence program had its beginning in May 1940 when The Surgeon General was requested to contribute to a field manual on military government being prepared by the Judge Advocate General's Office. The Chief, Preventive Medicine Subdivision, OTSG responded to the task and focused attention on the need for civil public health planning in occupied areas. As a consequence A Plan for the Military Administration of Public Health in Occupied Territory was developed in June 1940 with the Preventive Medicine Subdivision assuming the task of collecting the supporting documentary information. As the entry of the United States into World War II approached, Preventive Medicine was called upon to produce sanitary surveys of proposed military bases in Newfoundland, Central and South America, and the West Indies. The effort required in producing these surveys indicated the necessity for a full time staff to collect and assimilate the raw material to sustain efforts of this type. Accordingly, planning continued for the expansion of the Preventive Medicine Subdivision.

The Preventive Medicine Division, OTSG was established on 18 April 1941 having among its functions that of medical intelligence. The Medical Intelligence Subdivision did not begin to function as a separate administrative unit until June 1941. When finally established, the unit consisted of CPT Tom F. Wayne, MC, and a clerk. An additional officer was assigned later.

Medical Intelligence was totally unprepared for the outbreak of war in December 1941. The intelligence program was at least two years behind the point it should have been to be of maximum value. Still, in 1942 contributions to 96 strategic surveys were prepared by the two officers assisted later by a third. The surveys of 1943 were produced on a slower schedule with a larger staff. As a consequence they were more comprehensive and included bibliographies and maps. Beginning in July 1943 the Joint Army and Navy Intelligence Study (JANIS) replaced the War Department Strategic Surveys. Staff continued to increase and by the end of 1943 had reached 11 officers and six civilians.

With augmented staff came the need for a new form of internal organization. The Preventive Medicine Division was organized 1 January 1944 as a separate service and Medical Intelligence was elevated to Division status. Internally to the Medical Intelligence Division three branches

were formed: Collection Branch, Analysis Branch, and Dissemination Branch. Intelligence production was heavy. The former strategic surveys were incorporated into the TB MED series thus enlarging the distribution potential. Copy for 10 JANIS and 54 TB MED's were prepared during 1944. This program continued unaltered until the defeat of Japan. By 14 August 1945, copy for seven JANIS and 19 TB MED's had been prepared.

The end of World War II witnessed a rapid decline of medical intelligence from 12 officers and 21 civilians in April 1945 to five officers and 10 civilians in October 1945. Studies in progress were completed but within three months of the end of the war, production and dissemination had reverted to 1941-42 levels. The medical intelligence program shifted into an attempt to achieve an orderly transition from war to peace in the hope that, when the decision was ultimately made as to the postwar peacetime status of medical intelligence, the lessons learned during the war would not have to be repeated, the labor expended would not have to be respent, and the data assembled would not have to be gathered anew. It remains for history to determine whether that objective was achieved.

*

*

*

Source: Chapter V, Medical Department United States Army in World War II.

Medical Intelligence Directors

CPT Tom F. Wheyner, MC, USA
April, 1941 to 27 March 1943

LTC Gaylord W. Anderson, MC, AUS
28 March 1943 to 24 June 1946

MAJ Saul Jarcho, MC, AUS
25 June 1946 to 24 August 1946

Arthur R. Turner, MD
25 August 1946 to 13 January 1955
31 October 1955 to 10 January 1956
20 January 1959 to 22 March 1959
20 June 1960 to 30 November 1965

COL Philip W. Mallory, MC, USA
14 January 1955 to 30 October 1955

COL Thomas E. Patton, Jr., MC, USA
11 January 1956 to 19 January 1959

LTC Jon P. Evans MC, USA
23 March 1959 to 19 June 1960

COL Robert E. Van Gilder, MSC
December 1965 - June 1968

COL William E. O'Neill, MSC
10 June 1968 - 27 June 1971

COL Reginald C. Thomas, MSC
28 June 1971 to 23 May 1972

MAJ William C. Miller, III, MSC
24 May 1972 to 1 July 1972

LTC Kenneth Stuart, MSC
2 July 1972 to August 1975

LTC James S. Kennan, MSC
August 1975 to August 1978

LTC William C. Miller, III, MSC
August 1978 to